



Local Reserve Unit Mobilized for War

The 123rd Quartermaster Company set out for Fort Riley, Kansas following the activities and will remain there for an undisclosed amount of time before heading overseas. Prior to their departure, the soldiers and families received briefs on their medical benefits, reemployment rights, and other entitlements. The briefs were followed by an emotional good-bye.

"I just don't know if I'm going to make it on my own," a tearful Lynn Porter said. Her husband, William, is the company First Sergeant and a 16-year veteran of the Army Reserve. This is his third mobilization, but his first since he and Lynn were married. They have two children; Patrick and Michael.

"It is going to be hard without him. I'll have to juggle my part-time job, taking care of a three and four year-old and keeping our house in working order," Porter stated.

Some of the single soldiers are leaving apartments and vehicles in the care of their parents while they are gone.

“My folks are going to check on my stuff every so often and my landlord said it was okay to leave my car parked by the apartment, so I’m ready to go and get this mission started,” Specialist Steve Wiske said.

A few of the soldiers' spouses are planning to move home with their parents until the soldiers return home. One of those spouses is Cheresa Brull.

“I figured it would be nice to have my family close while Jason is gone. Our house would be too lonely without him.”

According to new Department of Defense policy, the 123rd will remain overseas for a period of one year. The 123rd Quartermaster Company recently returned from Annual Training, where they mobilized for the time it takes to get there and come back. Family and friends support the deployment, but realize that it is necessary to

During this training, the company participated in operations related to convoy movement and security. The task was to travel by convoy 30 miles through enemy lines and link-up with a forward-deployed transportation battalion.

"It was quite a daunting task. We had stiff enemy resistance throughout the exercise and some communication problems at the start. We eventually got the communications squared away and we consistently gave better than we got. We were only one hour off of our scheduled link-up with the transportation boys," Captain Dale Bradshaw, commander of the 123rd, said.

The Fort Riley, Kansas exercise was one week in length and consisted of four days of classroom and situational training with the last three days devoted to the field. Some soldiers wished for more time in the field.

"The classroom training was well conceived, but I believe actions speak louder than words. I would like to spend more time in the field," First Sergeant William Porter stated.

A battalion from the 1st Infantry Division provided the opposing force. It was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Dan Upchurch.

The 123rd really gave us a fight. Most of the Reserve units that come through this course are afraid to try flanking maneuvers, but we were fighting them off all three days. I was quite impressed," Upchurch said.

and made use of several flanking maneuvers to reach their objective.

Photographs by Ken Gemar

Safety - Exercise

Safety Exercise

